

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-03 L-01 INR-05 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 DODE-00

/040 W

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R 310952Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 079

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5808

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, AEMR, PFOR, CB, US, ICRC, SREF, PINT

SUBJ: ICRC REPRESENTATIVE CALLS ON AMBASSADOR

MORNING OF MARCH 31 ANDRE PASQUIER, CHIEF OF ICRC TEAM, CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION FOLLOWING THREE SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED:

A) ICRC'S UNWILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PL-480 TITLE II PROGRAM

MR. PASQUIER, A SWISS NATIONAL, SAID THAT HE HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO GET THE ICRC INVOLVED IN THE TITLE II RICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES AND OTHER NEEDY KHMERS. HE OPINED THAT THE TITLE II PROGRAM IS EXCLUSIVELY A U.S. GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AND THAT UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS PREFERABLE FOR THE ICRC OPERATION IN CAMBODIA NOT TO BE DIRECTLY LINKED WITH THE AMERICAN SPONSORED PROGRAM. I TOOK NOTE OF THIS DECISION.

B) ICRC AS CHANNEL FOR A DIALOGUE AMONG KHMERS

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MR. PASQUIER SAID THAT HE BELIEVES HE HAS GOTTEN WORD

TO THE KHMERS ON THE OTHER SIDE (AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL, HE THINKS) THAT IN THE EVENT THE OTHER SIDE WISHES TO USE THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AS A CHANNEL FOR PASSING MESSAGES TO KHMERS ON THIS SIDE IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE, THE ICRC STANDS READY TO DO SO.

VRE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE, BUT PROVIDING THIS SERVICE, HE SAID, IS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS' FUNCTIONS IN AREAS OF COMBAT.

C) EVACUATION OF ICRC PERSONNEL FROM CAMBODIA

AT THE PRESENT TIME ICRC HAS 33 FOREIGN NATIONAL EMPLOYEES IN CAMBODIA. OF THESE, 15 WILL REMAIN BEHIND AND 18 WOULD BE EVACUATED BY THE U.S. IF AND WHEN THE U.S. TAKES OUT ITS OWN NATIONALS. FOR THE SAKE OF CLARITY AND FOR THE RECORD I REQUESTED MR. PASQUIER TO GIVE ME A LIST OF THOSE WHO WOULD STAY BEHIND OF THEIR OWN VOLITION AND THOSE FOR WHOM THE EMBASSY WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY IN CASE OF AN EVACUATION. HE PROMISED TO DO SO IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO.

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